

REMARKS

A petition to extend the time for response by three (3) months is enclosed herewith.

The specification has been amended. Claim 41 has been amended. Claim 42 has been canceled. New claim 53 depending from claim 27 has been added. Claims 27 – 41 and 43 – 53 are currently pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to. Furthermore, in the Office Action, claims 27-37, 40-45, and 48-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by French Patent 2,239,916 to Antargaz Distribution (“Antargaz”). Also, in the Office Action, claims 38-39, and 46-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Antargaz in view of Great Britain Patent Specification 1,113,471 to Fudge et al. (“Fudge”).

With respect to the objection to the drawings, the specification has been amended to conform the description of the air deflector 49 with the reference character “49” used to designate the air deflector in Figure 2 of the present application.

With respect to the prior art rejections of claims 27 - 52, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendment of claim 41, the cancelation of claim 42, and the following comments.

The present invention is directed to a gas heating device that includes a gas burner and a convection air conduit. As recited in claim 27 of the present application, the gas burner includes a combustion chamber for the flames of the

gas burner. Also, the convection air conduit includes an air outlet evacuating a convection air stream that has been heated in the gas heating device. Additionally, as recited in claim 27 of the present application, the combustion chamber of the gas burner is in fluid-flow communication with the convection air conduit and mixes an exhaust gas stream from the combustion chamber with the convection air stream.

Antargaz discloses a gas heating device 1 comprising a gas burner 12 including a combustion chamber and a convection air conduit 3 including an air outlet 9 evacuating a convection air stream.

Fudge discloses a gas space/room heater that heats by both radiation and convection.

Several differences between the gas heating arrangements disclosed Antargaz and Fudge and the gas heating device of the present invention as exemplarily recited in claim 27 of the present application are readily apparent. For example, none of these cited references disclose or teach a gas heating device in which the convection air conduit includes an air outlet evacuating a convection air stream that has been heated in the gas heating device and the combustion chamber of the gas burner is in fluid-flow communication with the convection air conduit and mixes an exhaust gas stream from the combustion chamber with the convection air stream.

New claim 53 recites further features of the gas heating device recited in claim 27 of the present application including the feature that a housing is provided with a hood-like front housing portion, the front housing portion at least partly defines the convection air conduit, the air outlet and air inlet are provided in the front housing portion, the convection air conduit includes a first air duct and a

second air duct, the gas burner faces the first air duct, the second air duct is located behind the gas burner, and the air inlet is communicated with the gas burner in a manner to provide a secondary air stream to the gas burner for combustion thereby with the secondary air stream reaching the gas burner without any mixing of the secondary air stream with air that has traveled along the second air duct located behind the gas burner.

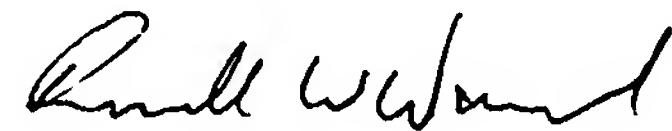
Several differences between the gas heating arrangements disclosed Antargaz and Fuide and the gas heating device of the present invention as recited in claim 53 of the present application are readily apparent. For example, Antargaz discloses that a secondary air stream flows into an inlet at F1 and thereafter flows between the wall 8 and the wall 49 to exit at the baffle 47 into the mixing zone Z whereat this secondary air stream mixes with air that has flowed behind the gas burner 12 along the duct 42. Thus, the Antargaz arrangement teaches away from the the gas heating device of the present invention as recited in claim 53 of the present application.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 27 – 41 and 43 – 53 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



Russell W. Warnock
Registration No. 32,860
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BSH Home Appliances Corporation
100 Bosch Blvd.
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: 252-672-7927
Fax: 714-845-2807
russ.warnock@bshg.com